

**LIC Mutual Fund**

**6866. DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have invested in the LIC Mutual Fund Scheme, State-wise?

(b) the number of persons who have invested Rupees one lakh, and above, in the scheme State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). No State-wise record is maintained by the LIC Mutual Fund regarding the number of investors and the amounts of investment under the various schemes. The total number of applications received as on date under 15 different scheme of the LIC Mutual Fund stands at 5,41,737.

**Dredging of Cochin Port**

**6867. PROF. K. V. THOMAS:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for dredging the Cochin Port during the last three years;

(b) the agencies to whom the work for dredging has been awarded; and

(c) the capital of the new dredger which is likely to be commissioned by August, 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The amount on dredging at Cochin Port during the last 3 years is as follows:—

(Rupees in lakhs)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount spent</i>
1988-89	873.82
1989-90	931.82
1990-91	987.08

(b) Except for a small portion of maintenance dredging, which is done by port dredgers, the entire maintenance as well as capital dredging is carried out by Dredging Corporation of India.

(c) The hopper capacity of the new dredger is 1500 Cub. mts.

[Translation]

**Recruitment Rules for Regional Rural Banks**

**6868. SHRISANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules have been framed for recruitment of various categories of staff in Regional Rural Banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The recruitment and promotion rules in respect of all categories of employees of Regional Rural Banks had been promulgated vide Government of India's notification No. F. 8 (3)/88-RRB dated 28.09.1988. However, consequent to the implementation of the award of National Industrial Tribunal and the report of the Equations Committee for RRBs, certain categories of posts in these institutions have been amalgamated/abolished. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

(NABARD) had constituted a Working Group to recommend, inter-alia, recruitment and promotion rules for the categories of posts which are now in existence in RRBs. The Working Group's report has recently been made available to the Government by NABARD.

[English]

### **Sethu Samudram Project**

6869. SHRI P. P. KALIAPERUMAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the Sethu samudram Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). The Eighth Plan proposals have not been finalised.

### **Smuggling of Silver in Gujarat**

6870. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:  
SHRI HARISINGH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, "Massive Silver hauls in Gujarat" appearing in the Pioneer dated March 16, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the international smuggling syndicate operating out of Dubai has switched over from gold to silver smuggling after the facility to bring in the country has been provided by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the quantity and value of the silver seized in Gujarat during the last three years and especially since March, 1992; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCES (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (e). Government is aware of the news item. Available reports and seizures made indicate that both gold and silver continue to be sensitive to smuggling into the country. The quantity and value of gold and silver seized by the Customs authorities through out country in the last 3 years is given below:—

	Gold		Silver	
	Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Quantity (in kg.)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Quantity (in kg.)
1990	19296	5721	14956	216447
1991 (Prov)	18700	4926	13808	197905
1992 (upto 30th March) (Prove.)	3964	816	3992	48340